

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /025 W
----- 001231

R 100755Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8189

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2952

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIES OF THAI GOVERNORS

REF: BANGKOK 2921

SUMMARY. AS PROMISED IN REFTEL EMBASSY TRANSMITS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN ITS FILES ON GOVERNORS WHO WERE RECENTLY TRANSFERRED. END SUMMARY.

1. M.L. PHAKSU KAMPHU, GOVERNOR OF LAMPHUN. BORN OCTOBER 17, 1928, IN BANGKOK. GRADUATE CHULALONGKHON UNIVERSITY WITH BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, 1953; RECEIVED MA IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FROM MICHIGAN STATE IN 1956. MARRIED TO THONGSI HONGLADAROM, WHO IS A PROFESSOR AT NIDA. VICE GOVERNOR OF NARATHIWAT, 1973-1976; DEPUTY GOVERNOR, NONTHABURI, 1972-1973; DEPUTY GOVERNOR NAKHON PATHOM, 1971-1972; DISTRICT OFFICER SAMPHANTHAWONG, THEN HUA HIN. HE WAS APPOINTED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (DEC. 1973-JAN. 1975). AMCONSUL SONGKHLA REPORTS THAT HE IS A YOUNG, BRIGHT, WELL-CONNECTED OFFICIAL WITH A REPUTATION FOR BEING ACTIVE WHEN IN NARATHIWAT. HE IS A YOUNG MAN ON THE WAY UP.

2. SAWAI SIRIMONGKHON, GOVERNOR OF LAMPANG. BORN MAY 3, 1930, RATCHABURI. MARRIED WITH AT LEAST ONE SON. RECEIVED BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM
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CHULALONGKHON UNIVERSITY IN 1952; MA IN PUBLIC ADMINI-

STATION FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY 1961; WAS SENT TO US ON AN OBSERVATION TOUR MARCH-APRIL 1973. SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. GOVERNOR OF PHICHIT PROVINCE, 1974-1976; DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, DOLA, 1972-1974; DEPUTY GOVERNOR, NARATHAWIT 1968-69; DISTRICT OFFICER, SONGKHLA 1966-67; AND ACTING DIRECTOR, DISTRICT OFFICER'S COLLEGE 1965-66. SAWAI IS WELL REGARDED BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE COME IN CONTACT WITH HIM. AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI REPORTS THAT SAWAI IS A YOUNG, ABLE AND POLITICALLY ASTUTE BUREAUCRAT WHO MADE MOST OF HIS FIRST GOVERNORSHIP IN PHCHIT. SAWAI IS ARTICULATE, WITH A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. SAWAI'S OBVIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES AND RAPID CAREER ADVANCEMENT IN THE MOI, WHERE HE IS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST GOVERNORS IN THE COUNTRY, CLEARLY MARK HIM FOR IMPORTANT FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS. SAWAI'S TRANSFER FROM PHICHIT, A SMALL BACKWATER PROVINCE, TO LAMPANG CONFIRMS THIS ASSESSMENT.

3. PHAITUN KENGSAKUN--ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. BORN APRIL 20, 1920, SAMUT PRAKAN. MARRIED TO SUMALI. HOLDER OF MOST EXALTED ORDER OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT, FIFTH CLASS. GRADUATED FROM THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY WITH BA IN ECONOMICS. HE ALSO HOLDS A CERTIFICATE IN DEMOGRAPHY FROM INDIA, AND A CERTIFICATE IN JOURNALISM FROM CHULALONGKHON UNIVERSITY. HE WAS GOVERNOR OF UTHAI THANI 1974-1976; VICE GOVERNOR, PRACHUAP KHIRIKHAN 1972-1974; DISTRICT OFFICER, NAKHON PHANOM.

4. SAWAT CHALOEMPHONG, ATTACHED TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. BORN AUGUST 17, 1918, NAKHON SAWAN PROVINCE. MARRIED TO CHITRA KUSUMA. GRADUATE OF THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY WITH BA IN LAW, 1938. GOVERNOR OF LOEI PROVINCE 1973-1976; GOVERNOR, PHETCHABUN 1971-1973; PREVIOUS POSITIONS INCLUDE VICE GOVERNOR, NAKHON PHANOM (1970-71); DEPUTY GOVERNOR, KORAT (1965-69); DISTRICT OFFICER IN NAKHON SAWAN, CHAINAT, PHREA, PHITSANULOK, SARABURI, KORAT AND LAMPHUN. AMCONSUL UDORN CHARACTERIZED SAWAT AS AN OLD STYLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO WAS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO GENERAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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ADMINISTRATION IN LOEI WAS UNIMAGINATIVE AND GENERALLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE PEOPLE.

5. SAMRAN BUSAPAWANIT. ATTACHED TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. BORN FEBRUARY 9, 1917, CHIANG MAI. MARRIED TO BUNLUAM CHAIYAWAN AND HAS 6 CHILDREN. HOBBY GARDENING. GRADUATED FROM THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY WITH BA AND MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. HOLDER OF CERTIFICATE IN

PUBLIC AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION FROM CORNWALL TECHNICAL COLLEGE, ENGLAND. HOLDER OF FOLLOWING DECORATIONS: KNIGHT COMMANDER (SECOND CLASS) OF THE MOST NOTABLE ORDER OF THE CROWN OF THAILAND; COMMANDER (THIRD CLASS) OF THE MOST EXALTED ORDER OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT. GOVERNOR OF LAMPANG, 1973-1976; GOVERNOR OF CHAIYAPHUM 1971-1973; DIRECTOR OF PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION, DOLA; DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF CHIANG RAI; DISTRICT OFFICER IN CHIANG RAI, PATHUMTHANI AND AYUTTHAYA. RECIPIENT OF COLOMBO GRANT TO ENGLAND AND USOM GRANT TO STUDY ADMINISTRATION IN THE US. AMCONSUL UDORN IN 1973 SAID SAMRAN GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF AN INTELLIGENT, WELL-READ, RESOURCEFUL AND FORTHRIGHT SENIOR RTG OFFICIAL. HE IS A LOW KEY MAN WHO MAKES HIS POINTS WITH IRONY AND UNDERSTATEMENT. HE SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH AND READS ECONOMIC TEXTS IN ENGLISH. HE IS FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS AND IS WILLING TO SPEAK FRANKLY WITH THEM.

6. THAWAT MAKKARAPHONG, ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THAT ALREADY AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT.

7. PRASIT KOMONMAN, GOVERNOR OF PHICHIT. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THAT ALREADY AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO02952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760050-0151
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760265/aaaacfhp.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 2921
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIES OF THAI GOVERNORS
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, PINT, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006